



Notre Dame School

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February 2025 School Newsletter



“Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith”

Notre Dame would like to acknowledge that we are blessed to live, work, and play on Treaty 8 land, the traditional territory of the Cree, Sekani, Dunne-za, Dene-thah, Saulteaux, Chipewyan, and other Indigenous peoples who were not identified specifically in the treaty.

Principal’s Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

As we welcome February, we are reminded of the importance of connection, reflection, and growth within our school community.

This month, we celebrate **Family Day**, a special opportunity to spend time with loved ones and honour the blessings of family. In our Catholic tradition, the family is a gift from God and a cornerstone of love, faith, and values. Family Day is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen these bonds by spending meaningful time together, praying as a family, sharing joyful moments, and showing gratitude for one another’s blessings.

February also marks an exciting milestone in our students’ learning journeys as we prepare for **Student-Led Conferences**. These conferences allow students to take an active role in sharing their progress, achievements, and goals. It’s a chance for them to reflect on their growth and take ownership of their learning, fostering a sense of responsibility and pride. As parents, your presence and encouragement during these conferences send a powerful message of support, reinforcing the partnership between home and school in your child’s development.

As we journey through this month, let us keep Christ at the center of all we do. Let us strive to model love, respect, and compassion in our families and school community. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where every child feels valued and inspired to reach their God-given potential.

May February bring moments of joy, connection, and growth for your families and our school community. Remember that my door is always open to answer questions or listen to any concerns.

God Bless,
Your Partner in Education
C. Richard



February Events



Monday, Feb 3rd

Catholic Schools Week Assembly @ 9:00 am

Tuesday, Feb 4th

Cereal Box Domino Run – during PHE Classes

Wednesday, Feb 5th

FORMED Movie Day

- Primary Grades at 11:00
- Intermediate Grades at 1:00

Thursday, Feb 6th

Notre Dame Apparel Day – Dress in your Notre Dame Apparel & Hot Chocolate Treat Day



Friday, Feb 7th

Gr. 6 Prayer Service & Virtue Awards @ 9:00 am, Notre Dame Gym

Wednesday, Feb 12th

100's Day of School

Friday, Feb. 14

Gr. 3 Mass @ 9:00 am, Notre Dame Parish



Monday, Feb. 17th

Family Day – NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, Feb. 18th

School Council Meeting @ 6:30

Thursday, Feb. 20th

Spirit Day – **Dress like your real-world hero day:** Pick a real-life hero — a parent, teacher, sports legend or friend.

Friday, Feb. 21st

Gr. 5 Prayer



Wednesday, Feb 26th & Thursday, Feb 27th

Student Led- Conferencing – Early Dismissal (1:45)

Friday, Feb 28th

Intermediate Ski Trip to Bear Mountain

Student – Led Conferences

Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 26th** and **Thursday, Feb. 27th**.

Students will be dismissed early at 1:45 on both days to allow for conferencing with families.

This term, conferences will be in person, with two families booked every 30 minutes, from 2:15 to 7:00 p.m. each day.

Students will need to be present with their families to lead the conference and then meet with the classroom teacher to discuss, answer questions and set goals for moving forward with the student.

Please watch for an email from the school to sign up for your specific time for your conference soon.

Kindergarten Registration



Notre Dame is excited to welcome **new Kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year.**

Any child who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, schools may register. The Registration Package is available on Notre Dame school's website and at the school office. At Notre Dame, Kindergarten establishes a strong foundation for lifelong learning, as the teacher provides dynamic, play-based opportunities to help each child grow and learn. We focus on the whole child socially, emotionally, academically, and spiritually.

Once the school receives the registration package from families, interviews will be set up. Interviews will start the first week of February.



Feeding Futures



We are excited at Notre Dame School to be continuing with our "Feeding Futures" initiative. Various fruit, apple sauce, crackers and granola bars will continue to be available in a snack box in each classroom daily.

We are excited to share that a special lunch will be provided for all our students on Friday, February 7th. We hope this meal will be a delightful treat for the students as we continue to foster a sense of togetherness. **If your child chooses not to eat the pizza meal provided, please send your child lunch that day.**

News

from Our School Council



- Our first meeting for this school year will be on **February 18th at 6:30 pm.**
- Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





Our Faith & Catholic Education



As we enter February, we reflect on the virtue of love. Love is the foundation of all virtues, calling us to care deeply for others and reflect God's unconditional love in our actions. Alongside love, we focus on joy, one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Joy is a deep sense of gladness and gratitude that comes from trusting God, even in challenging times. Love and joy inspire us to live with compassion, gratitude, and a heart open to God's blessings.

What is Love?

Love means putting the needs of others before our own and treating everyone with kindness and respect. The selfless care and generosity reflect God's infinite love for us.

What is Joy?

Joy is an inner happiness that comes from knowing God loves us. It helps us find peace and gratitude in all circumstances, trusting in His plan for our lives.



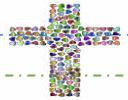
How Can We Practice Love and Joy?

- **Showing Care to Others:** Practice love by offering kind words, helping someone in need, or listening with empathy.
- **Giving Thanks Daily:** Cultivate joy by expressing gratitude for the blessings in your life, big or small.
- **Celebrating Others' Successes:** Share in the joy of others by cheering them on and celebrating their achievements.
- **Smiling and Spreading Cheer:** A simple smile or kind gesture can brighten someone's day and spread joy.

Why Love and Joy Matter

Love brings us closer to others and reflects God's grace in our lives, while joy helps us face life's ups and downs with hope and gratitude. Together, they strengthen our relationships, fill our hearts with peace, and bring light to the world around us.

This February, let's focus on living with love and embracing joy in our schools, homes, and communities. Through small acts of kindness and a thankful heart, we can be examples of God's love and joy for those around us.



Virtue & Fruits of the Spirit Awards for December

Congratulations to all the students and staff who have received awards and to each of you for helping us practice the virtue and Fruit of the Spirit of **Charity**.

Kindergarten Awards: Francesco Enriquez, Ophelia Nguyen

Grade One Awards: Kachi Oramah, Aaliyah Placido

Grade Two: Ryan Rose, Kimberly Staples

Grade Three: Summer Obrigewitch, Abigail Shipton

Grade Four: Austin-West Fernandez, Jhayztyn Gonzales, Aria Wiebe

Grade Five: Lucas Alfonso, Emma Dyck, Wesley Pohl

Grade Six: Jazmin Adriano, Aliyah Fernandez, Makenna Mackie

Grade Seven: Jaspas Judge-Dokken, Febbie Solatorio

Staff: Mrs. Mountifield, Mrs. MacKenzie



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News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



Hello, Families of Notre Dame, Hello, Families of Notre Dame, We want to thank our organizers and volunteers who help make the program run smoothly and the families who place orders. It is greatly appreciated as all funds raised go to supporting the students.

Our SCHOOL WIDE Read-A-Thon began on January 27 and will run until February 21. This is our sixth year with this program/fundraiser. Students continue to track their reading for the duration while raising money for our levelled reader and intermediate reading programs. In the previous five years, we have raised over \$52,000 as a school! Reminder to send checklists/tracking sheets weekly to be entered into the prize draws each FRIDAY. At the end of the Read-a-thon, the Parent Support Group will provide a classroom pizza party to the TOP PRIMARY CLASS and TOP INTERMEDIATE CLASS for funds raised as a group. The PSG will also award prizes to the top primary and intermediate students for individual funds raised.

We have some cookbooks remaining available for purchase! Each book contains over 250 recipes submitted by families. This cookbook is more than just a collection of recipes; it is a celebration of the love, traditions, and flavours that define our families and bring us together. Copies are \$25 per book, and funds raised will go toward classroom requests and field trips.

"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."
– Lao Tzu.



Weather & Outside Time

We know the weather can be frightfully frigid as our winter continues. Our policy states that children will be outside for the morning and lunch recess if the temperature is -19°C . **When the temperature hits -20°C , then the children will be kept inside.** Please dress your child accordingly. Dressing in layers is helpful on those days that might start out cold and then warm up. Have your child bring a sweater, jacket, snow pants, mittens and toques. Being prepared for the changing temperatures ensures our students are dressed properly for the weather and can enjoy the outside.

Notre Dame Pre-School

Notre Dame's Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten has classes with Ms. Patsy on:

Monday & Tuesday

Morning classes: 8:30am – 11:30am

Afternoon classes: 12:30 pm -3:30 pm

Wednesday & Thursday

Morning classes: 8:30am – 11:30am

Afternoon classes: 12:30 pm -3:30 pm

Fridays

Morning classes only:

8:30 am – 11:30 am



Morning & After School Care



Our Morning & Afterschool Care program is available for kindergarten to grade 7 students within our school. There are 24 spaces available with a ratio of 1 staff member for every 12 children. Our program will provide a beginning and continuation of care for your child before and following their school day.

Hours of operation

Morning School Care: 7:30 am – 8:30 am

Afterschool Care: 2:45 pm – 5:45 pm.

Applications for the Morning & Afterschool Care Program can be found on our school website or at the school office.

There are **drop in days available if we have space.**



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Our Bell Schedule



8:30 Playground gates open:

Students enter the school through the playground gates and mudroom doors upon arrival at **8:30**. Students will change their shoes and then head to their classroom.



Morning Welcome

First bell

8:40 am

Second bell, gates are locked

8:45 am

Morning announcements & Classes Begin

Recess Breaks:

10:15-10:30

Lunch Breaks:

12:00-12:25

Outside Play

12:25-12:45

Eating in their classrooms



End of the Day Dismissal:

2:45 pm

End of the day exit from the playground. After school supervision is over at **3:00pm**, students must be **picked up on time**.

Student Safety

Cross Walk Safety:

Students are encouraged to cross the road **using the cross walk** for safety. A crossing guard is paid and hired by the school for student safety.



Parking Lot Safety:

The Notre Dame Staff Parking will be closed at the **beginning and end** of each day for student safety. Please park along the road and walk to the gates or have your child meet you at the sidewalk. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.



School Absences:

Please **contact the school office though email, a written note or call (250-782-4923)** if your child will not be at school or will be arriving late. We would appreciate it if you could call in absences before 9 am. This is a **safety issue**. When a child is not at school and there has been no call in from parents, the school will call you to make sure that your child is home safe with you. It is our responsibility to locate your child as soon as possible.



Allergy 'Aware' School



Notre Dame School is **"Allergy Aware"**.

Please check with your child's classroom teacher for allergy alerts. We encourage families to consider peanut/nut alternatives for individual student lunches and snacks out of consideration to our students and staff with food sensitivities/allergies.

Students are reminded that snacks and lunch are to be eaten in the classroom. We cannot eat recess snack or lunch on the playground for safety reasons such as allergies.



As well, numerous unexplained absences throughout the year place our school funding in jeopardy. Absentee notes are important to our school funding!

School Newsletters & Calendars

Monthly school newsletters and calendars will be available on our [school website](#) at the beginning of each month, and emailed out to families.

You can also check us out on Facebook for upcoming events.



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